

Environmental Task Force Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2006
DEQ – Galvez Building – Oliver Pollack Room
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

I. Call to order & Welcome – Tom Henning, Chairperson – first meeting for Tom Henning as Chairperson

II. Roll Call

Present:

Tom Henning, Chair
John T. Landry, Vice Chair
Sharon Parsons
Sen. Jody Amedee
John Pardue
Robert Twilley
Patrick Talley
Rep. N. J. Damico
Maura Wood
Henry Graham

Absent:

Kent Satterlee
Rickey Melerine
Sen. Clo Fontenot
Robert Thomas
Jerome Ringo
Rep. Donald Cravins, Jr.
Bob Berkebile
Mark Davis

III. Meeting from February 1, 2006

Tom Henning stated that everyone was e-mailed the minutes from the previous meeting held Wednesday, February 1, 2006, the meeting was called, Infrastructure and Transportation/Environmental Task Force Meeting, Oliver Pollock Room, Galvez Building, 3:00 pm.

IV. Environmental Updates

a. Waste Water Treatment Status Report – Chris Piehler

b. Debris Removal Progress – Lenny Young

Debris Management status

- 90% or 5,405,879 CY of Hurricane Rita Debris has been removed as of Feb 20th. (At Corps Managed Sites)
- 65% or 13,145,252 CY of Hurricane Katrina Debris removed as of Feb. 20th. (At Corps Managed Sites)
- 93% or 15,226,043 CY OF Katrina & Rita Debris removed as of Feb. 9th (At Applicant Managed Sites)

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

- Electronic Goods disposal
 - Cumulative total (units) = 291,158 as of February 20, 2006
 - Freon Extraction
 - Cumulative total (units) = 274,059 as of February 20, 2006

- White Goods-Katrina & Rita (USACE; Refrigerators, freezers, A/C, W/D, Stoves, DW, Water fountains, microwaves)

Katrina = 594,549

Rita = 20,359

Grand Total = 614,908 as of February 20, 2006

- Hazardous Waste (Drums, propane tanks, cylinders, other large/small containers)

Cumulative Total = 2,086,948 as of February 13, 2006

Demolition Mission

- Katrina Impacted Parishes as of Feb. 20th
 - Estimated Demolition Total – 28,554
 - Structures Demolished 68
 - Jefferson Parish – 11 Structures Demolished
 - Plaquemines Parish – 57 Structures Demolished
- Rita Impacted Parishes as of Feb. 20th
 - Estimated Demolition Total – 2,689
 - Structures Demolished – 0

Vehicles and Vessels

- Bids issued January 25th, 2006 – Low bidder notified on February 14, 2006 of documentation needed before award.
- Bid for vessels, Wildlife & Fisheries (WLF) registered up to 50 ft and vehicles on public property.
- Contract is imminent. Activity could be initiated within the net week, but implementation is pending FEMA funding.
- Eight bids were received.
 - Low bid was for 60 millions dollars.

- Request for bids on handling Coast Guard salvaged vessels is in process.

DEQ Continues to Focus on “RPM”

- **Reduction** of debris stream utilizing burning, chipping, grinding, recycling or other innovative methodologies
- **Preservation** of landfill capacity
 - Provides capacity for disposal of hurricane devastation debris
 - Provides capacity for disposal of future development debris
 - Provides capacity for disposal of resident/repopulations debris
- **Management** of Debris
 - Manage demolition debris from hurricanes aftermath
 - Manage development debris from home rebuilding activities.

c. Environmental Assessment Report – June Sutherlin Comprehensive Sampling Results Maps (by zip code)

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2379>

Zip Code Sample Data Reference Map

Click on the individual zip code numbers to view the maps and environmental summary.

70001	70092	70124
70005	70112	70125
70032	70113	70126
70040	70115	70127
70041	70116	70128
70043	70117	70129
70075	70118	
70083	70119	
70085	70121	
70091	70122	

Post-Katrina - Soil/Sediment Sampling and Assessment: Sediment/Soil Sampling in Katrina Flooded Areas

- Joint effort between USEPA and LDEQ
- Over 800 sediment samples collected
- Each sample analyzed for over 200 chemicals

- Tiered approach with multiple phases
- Sampling and evaluation are still ongoing

Phase I Sediment Sampling

- Sampling began as floodwater receded
- Over 450 samples collected
- Biased samples were collected to identify possible releases
- Samples were collected from sediments with stains or odors and from curbs/storm drains and drainage paths

Phase II Sediment Sampling

- Objective – more extensively characterize chemical nature of sediment in areas with heavy deposits
- 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish (excluding the area impacted by Murphy Oil spill)
- 282 sediment samples collected
- Compared to Residential Standards

Phase III Sediment Sampling

- Sampling is underway
- ~ 40 sample locations from earlier phases identified as localized areas that may require additional evaluation
- Plus the Agricultural Street Landfill and the Thompson-Hayward site
- ~ 280 samples to date

Phase IV Sediment Sampling

- Sampling is currently underway
- Focus is on areas with heavy sediment deposits
- Ninth ward and St. Bernard Parish
- ~ 130 samples to date

Presentation of Sediments Data

- Phase I, Phase II, Re-sampling Data
- Data Summary and Location Map for each zip code within the flood zone
- Identification of areas for further evaluation

V. Overview Long-Term Planning - Dave Bowman

Louisiana Task Force: Roles and Responsibility for the Environmental Task Force: February 23, 2006

Addressing the Challenges of Recover & Rebuilding from Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

Defining Task Force Responsibilities

Provide strategic recommendations to the LRA for rebuilding and recovery with broad-based input from key stakeholders including subject matter experts, and state and local elected officials.

- Establish principles and priorities through the strategic planning process.
- Develop indicators of progress and outcomes to be monitored by recovery teams.
- Make recommendations to the LRA on policies and programs as the need arises.
- Review and approve action plans developed by recovery teams consistent with the priorities of the task force strategic plan.

Strategic Planning Process

Task Force (with input)

- Situation assessment
- Develop broad principles and priorities
- Develop objectives and indicators
- Advise the recovery team

Recovery Team

- Develop Action Plans / Projects with input from task force and long-term planning process
- Monitor / collect indicators
- Report progress to Task Force

LRA TASK FORCE

- Principles
- Priorities
- Strategic Recommendations Advisor
- Outcomes
- Implementation Recovery Team / Governors Cabinet

Elements of the Strategic Plan

The Task Force Strategic Plan will include:

- Vision

- Purpose (Mission)
- Guiding Principles
- Priorities
 - Objectives
 - Dashboard indicators (process)
 - Outcomes (including benchmarks and targets)

The Task Force Strategic Plan will be drafted by the Strategic Advisor with guidance from the Recovery Team and Task Force. The Task Force will approve the plan. This plan will become part of the LRA overall Strategic Plan pending approval by the full Board.

Task Force – Recovery Team Relationship

The Strategic Advisor serves as the link between Task Force Priorities, local planning and Recovery Team implementation

Recommendations on Policies and Programs

- This is an ongoing process that does not end with the creation of the strategic plan. Provide objective oversight on implementation.
- May include recommending funding priorities for use of state / federal dollars (i.e. CDBG)
- May include establishing criteria for prioritizing action plans / projects
 - Is it consistent with our stated priorities?
 - Does it appropriately leverage funds? Is it duplicative?
 - Does it lead to positive, measurable outcomes?
- Some agencies received direct appropriations from Congress
 - DOTD received \$1.7 billion for infrastructure repairs.
 - Corps of Engineers has received \$2.9 billion for levee repairs.
 - BOR has received \$95 million for colleges and universities.
- These appropriations need to be factored into decisions

about block grants.

- Cabinet Secretaries may request LRA Task Forces to identify priorities.

LRA ROLE OVER CDBG

- The Governor has asked the LRA to make program recommendations for Partial Action Plans for CDBG.
- The Governor has asked the Office of Community Development to be the Fiscal Agent for CDBG funds for hurricane relief.

PROCESS FOR CDBG FUNDING APPROVAL

- The LRA Task Forces will set strategic policy goals and criteria and make recommendations to the LRA.
- Cabinet Agencies may submit Partial Action Plan proposals to the LRA task forces for consideration based on the broad parameters and criteria established by the Board
- LRA Board will review task force recommendations regarding Partial Action Plans.
 - LRA Task Forces are advisory.
 - Decision-making authority rests with the LRA.
- The Governor will submit LRA-approved Partial Action Plans to the Legislature for their approval.
- Upon approval of the Legislature, the Partial Action Plan will be submitted to HUD for its approval.

CATEGORIES OF FUNDING: HAZARD MITIGATION

Hazard Mitigation funds have been prioritized for the LRA for the following purposes:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Acquisition and demolition | ● Retrofit of Res |
| ● Elevation | ● Drainage Proj |
| ● Demolition/Rebuild | ● Retrofit of Bus |
| ● Retrofit of Critical Facilities | ● Coastal Restor |
| ● Retrofit of Public Facilities | ● Planning |
| ● Retrofit of Non-Profit Facilities | ● 5% Set Aside |

The LRA Hazard Mitigation team will prioritize investments consistent with the strategic policy goals of LRA Task Forces and local/regional plans

Mechanism – Recommendation to LRA Board

- The LRA Task Forces should make policy recommendations in the form of motions based on the following criteria:
 - Criteria # 1: Motion deals with broad policy and not specific programs
 - Criteria # 2: Where possible, the task force members receive a copy of the motion in advance of the meeting where the motion will be voted on; Voting on a motion that is proposed during a meeting should be postponed until the next meeting to allow for sufficient review
 - Criteria # 3: If the recommendation can be included in the strategic plan, then it should be voted on as an element of the strategic plan

SUMMARY

TASK FORCES ARE CONCERNED WITH THE “WHAT”

- Broad principles and policy goals
- Criteria and prioritization
- Provide objective oversight of implementation of strategic plans

RECOVERY TEAMS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE “HOW”

- Managing resources
- Implementation

The advisory function works in both directions to implement the best recovery solutions in concert with our long-term planning process.

VI. Mission Statement/Priorities discussion - Patrick Talley, John Pardue, Task Force Members

1. What is the mission of the Environmental Task Force? (I have incorporated everyone's comments. I took the best parts of what was offered and this is the result. I think, if everyone is agreeable that someone should present to the other members for discussion purposes only. This would be great for John to do. I could get with one of you to go through the explanation of each item of this statement>)

Role and Purpose of the Task Force

The mission, as incorporated within the broader mission of the LRA, is to work with the governor's cabinet secretaries and key stakeholders, such as subject matter experts and local and state officials, to provide broad-based input in the rebuilding, recovery and preservation of Louisiana communities, natural resources and supporting ecosystems. This task force will accomplish its mission by making strategic recommendation regarding long-term environmental planning which endorse the use of innovative and integrative programs and technologies, encourage environmental stewardship, promote health, and advance sound, environmental communication and education while giving due regard to equity.

Policy Goals of the Environmental Task Force

Long-Term Recovery and Environmental Stewardship. To assist with identification of strategic priorities to help guide long-term environmental policy and planning that will address the socio-economic needs of Louisiana and promote sustainable environmental stewardship to the greatest extent possible, into the state's long term rebuilding plan.

Rebuilding. To promote and encourage design systems that enhances environmental performance by developing and identifying programs that provide incentives to local residents, developers and city planners.

Innovation and Technology. To promote and encourage the use and development of innovation programs and technologies that can be employed to enhance environmental stewardship in long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Environmental Communication and Education. To promote the effective communication of sound, science-based information to communities during the rebuilding process and, where appropriate, promote quality environmental education that is responsive to community needs.

Scope of the Long-Term Planning Role of the Environmental Task Force relative to Short-Term, Long-Term Role of Recovery Teams

The Environmental Task Force recognizes that the Governor and the LRA, by creating the task force, intended the role of this task force be limited to an advisory one.

Considering the foregoing, the Environmental Task Force recognizes,

- that it may make recommendations, through the LRA Board, that may add value to decisions made by cabinet secretaries but the task force cannot impair the decision-making authority of cabinet secretaries.
- that the task force may work closely with other LRA task forces and planners to fulfill the mission of the task forces.
- that some issues can be brought to the attention of the task force but may be deferred to the appropriate agency, if the issue is within the scope of that agency's statutory and regulatory authority;
- that short-term priorities are addressed by the recovery team;
- that although some short-term issues may have long-term impacts, the role of the task force is to advise on long-term environmental planning and rebuilding.

It was agreed that everyone on the committee would take the tentative Mission Statement and review and revise for the next meeting. Joanna Gardner will contact all the members of the committee to assure that everyone will attend the next meeting.

VII. Public Comments:

Don Jones – The Yurco Hope Teams – presented a copy of his – The Yurco Hope Team’s Orleans and Surrounding Parishes Building and Homes Decontamination Plan – KATRINA/FLOOD Devastation. He asked that the committee take time to review.

It was asked that Andrea Jones be commended for her work for the task force and for working on the Mission Statement.

Meeting adjourned: 3:40 pm

B

VII